

THE EVENING STAR
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Senate Unit to Decide Scope of Inquiry Into Truman News Order

By the Associated Press

A special Senate subcommittee called a closed-door meeting today to chart a course for investigating the effects of President Truman's hotly disputed security order.

The order authorizes civilian Government agencies to withhold information if such action is deemed essential to national security. The armed services and the State Department already had that authority.

The inquiry, which will be conducted under the broad powers of the Senate's permanent subcommittee on investigations, was precipitated by a resolution offered by Senator Moody, Democrat, of Michigan, a former reporter, who will preside.

Sponsorship by the investigations subcommittee gives the Moody group virtually unlimited authority to investigate the affairs of Government departments and agencies.

Senator Moody said the meeting today would be devoted mostly to deciding on scope and objectives of the inquiry.

The Michigan Senator said he wants the inquiry to show whether the President's order has resulted in censorship depriving the public of information concerning Government affairs to which it is entitled.

3-Point Aim.

He has proposed specifically that the investigation should show:

1. How the security order has been used by Government agencies since it was issued last September 24.
2. The functions of Government information officers.
3. What proper methods may be used to protect real military secrets without concealing information from the public for other reasons.

Newspaper and others news groups have denounced the President's order vigorously as a form of censorship. Mr. Truman contends it is not censorship and does not unduly interfere with the free flow of news.

Meanwhile, a fight was brewing over a resolution by Senator McCarran, Democrat, of Nevada to bar televising or broadcasting of Senate committee hearings and to prohibit taking of still or newsreel pictures of them.

The National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters announced it would petition the Senate Rules Committee, to which the resolution was referred yesterday, for a hearing.

Harold E. Fellows, president of the broadcasting group, said Senator McCarran's proposal was "a clear invasion of the rights of public media." He said he was confident press, newsreel and motion picture groups would join his association in fighting the order.

House TV Barred.

Coverage of House committee hearings by television, newsreel cameras and tape-recordings was barred by Speaker Rayburn last February. Senator McCarran's proposal would effect only the Senate.

Senator McCarran already prohibits such coverage of the Senate Judiciary Committee which he heads. But some other Senators

advocate full publicity on their activities.

Senator Hunt, Democrat, of Wyoming, a member of last year's widely televised Senate Crime Investigations Committee, told a reporter he opposed Senator McCarran's resolution. Senator Hunt said televising of congressional hearings is "a great educational force."